

The Wichita Eagle.

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AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

Care of Farm Tools.

Most of our farm implements sooner rust and from careless exposure to the inclemency of the weather than are worn out by use. We are glad to see that our agricultural journals keep pointing away at the thick coats of rust that are fastened to the iron of our thin-skinned farming fraternity, who lose money every year for the want of a little reasonable care in this particular. The Farm Journal says:

"Every farmer should have a can of linseed oil and a brush on hand, and whenever he buys a new tool he should soak it well with the oil and dry it by the fire or in the sun before using. The wood, by this treatment, is toughened and strengthened and rendered impervious to water. Wet a new hay rake and when it dries it will begin to be loose in the joints, but if well oiled the wet will have but slight effect. Shovels and forks are preserved from checking and cracking in the top of the handle by oiling. The wood becomes as smooth as glass by use, and is far less liable to blister the hands when long used. Ax and hammer handles often break off where the wood enters the iron. This part particularly should be toughened with oil to secure durability. Oiling the wood in the eye of the ax will prevent its swelling and shrinking and sometimes getting loose. The tools on a large farm cost a great sum of money; they should be of the most approved kinds. It is poor economy, at the present extravagant price of labor, to set men to work with ordinary, old-fashioned implements. Laborers should be required to return their tools to the convenient places provided for them. After using they should be put away clean and bright. The mould-boards of plows are apt to get rusty from one season to another, even if sheltered. They should be brushed over with a few drops of oil when put away, and will then remain in good order until wanted."

Particular Hints.

A coating of three parts of lard and one part resin, applied to farm tools of iron or steel, will effectually prevent them from rust.

Common nails heated red hot and dropped into cold water, will clinch and answer the purpose of wrought nails.

The sharp corner of a common Indian arrowhead, flint, will cut glass effectually.

A good wagon jack may be made of boards two or three feet long. Place the board in front of the wheel, one end on the ground, and the other just under one of the spokes, close up to the felloe; then take hold of the spoke on the opposite side of the wheel, and lift it, at the same time placing the second board under the axle, in this way a loaded wagon may be lifted with ease. Rusty nails may be drawn from wood without difficulty, by first giving them a blow hard enough to start them a little.

A gun will not need cleaning for five years, if the muzzle is tightly corked, and a piece of rubber kept upon the tube under the hammer, when standing idle.

Cotton in California.

A movement for introducing the culture and manufacture of cotton into California, upon an extensive scale, is now apparently in successful progress. A cotton growing and manufacturing association has been incorporated for the purpose, under the auspices of the cotton which has been made of the valley of the Kern river as especially adapted to the object, possessing a favorable soil and climate, and ample water power for manufacturing purposes. Ten thousand acres of land, including a town-site with considerable improvements, have been purchased, and successful experiments in raising cotton have already been made. The town is located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains, and the lands are available for immediate planting; and the property is said to embrace peculiar facilities for promoting the growth of this special producing manufacturing industry. — *Agricultural.*

Dreary Homes.

Of all the dreary places, deliver us from the dreary farm-house which so many people call home. Bars for a front gate; pig-pens elbowing the house in the rear; craggy trees never cared for, or no trees at all; no flowering shrubs; no neatness, no trimness. And yet a lawn, and trees, and neat walls, and a pleasant porch, and a plain fence around, all do not cost a great deal. They can be secured, little by little, at odd times, and the expense hardly felt, and if ever the time comes when it is best to sell the farm, fifty dollars so invested will often bring back five hundred. For a man is a brute who will not insensitively yield to a higher price for such a farm when he thinks of the pleasant surroundings it offers his wife and children.

Hanging Evergreens for Winter.

Some of the simplest and yet most beautiful embellishments for winter window decorations have been pots of the English ivy (*Hedra*). The plants should be grown in pots in a cool, partially shaded situation during summer, being careful to have a stone or brick under the pot to prevent the roots gaining earth beyond the pot. In late autumn these pots of ivy, with their dark, rich green foliage, clean and glossy, can be transferred to the window of a sitting-room or library, and even should the temperature run down to zero, they are not at all injured. — *Horticulturalist.*

A Cure for Toothache.

Dr. Blake stated before the London Medical Society that he was able to cure the most desperate case of toothache, unless the disease was connected with rheumatism, by the application of the following remedy: Alum, reduced to an impalpable powder, two drachms; nitrous spts. of ether, seven drachms. Mix and apply to the tooth.

Calves Feet.

Clean and wash a set of feet (four), then boil slowly two hours. Whilst boiling throw in a tablespoonful of salt; skim them carefully. Dish them, but remove the large bones. Save the same as for calf's head; they are very delicate and nice. The broth is good for jelly.

At a late funeral the undertaker arranged for the husband and mother-in-law to ride in the same carriage. "Must I," said the broken-hearted man, "must I ride with that awful woman?" "I think you have to," answered the undertaker. "Well, if I must, I must," replied he, "but to ride with her destroys all the pleasure of the occasion."

When is a small baby like a big banker? When he is a *snooty-child*.

An Oxford student defines flirtation to be "attention without intention."

When does a man have to keep his word? When no one will take it.

What is it that has three feet, and cannot walk? A yard measure.

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